(a) the zero date of Brahmaputra waterways project; and

(b) the targeted date of operationalisation of this project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The river Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 km) was declared as a National Waterway on 26.12.1988 and various projects for providing and maintaining inland water transport infrastructure there-on are being implemented by the Inland Waterways Authority of India. To make this National Waterway fully functional by providing least available depth of 2 metres between Dhubri and Dibrugarh and 1-5 metres between Dibrugarh and Sadiya for about 330 days in a year, navigational aids for 24 hours navigation and terminals at specified locations, an Action Plan was prepared during 2006-07. This Action Plan is targeted to be completed in 2009-10.

Proposal of Kerala for coastal highway

1203. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority of Kerala had submitted representation for including the project proposal of coastal highway connecting Puthuvypeen to NH-17 at Moothakunnam in the National Highway Development Programme (NHDP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether Competent Authority of NHAI had visited the above road site in November, 2007;

(d) if so, the present status of the above project proposal;

(e) whether action would also be taken in affirmative on the above proposal; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation for coastal highway connecting Puthuvypeen to NH-17 at Moothakunnam was received from Government of Kerala for inclusion under Phase-VII of National Highway Development Programme (NHDP). The length of proposed coastal highway is about 25 km.

(c) The above proposal was discussed during visit of Chairman, NHAI to Kerala in November, 2007.

(d) to (f) The above proposal does not find place in the tentative list of projects approved by the Government under NHDP Phase VII.

NHAI project completion rate

1204. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: